

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Isaac A. Hubner on October 30, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Canceled claims 1, 3 and 6.

In claim 2, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "1" and replaced with --12--.

In claim 5, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "4" and replaced with --12--.

In claim 7, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "6" and replaced with --13--.

In claim 7, in lines 2-3, after "circumference" deleted "except for a web lying in"

and replaced with --to define the web lying on--.

In claim 9, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "6" and replaced with --13--.

In claim 10, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "6" and replaced with --13--.

Inserted new claim 12 as follows:

--12. (New) A three-dimensional joint structure made of two hollow profiles, of a support frame for vehicles, comprising:

a first elongated hollow profile having a cross-section having at least one planar side and a separating cut extending in one single cross-sectional plane around a portion of the circumference of the first hollow

Art Unit: 3679

profile to define a web lying on the planar side, the first hollow profile being bent around the web to define two profile sections at an angle relative to one another and connected by the web, the two profile sections having ends formed by the separating cut and each end comprising projecting edge regions; and

a second elongated hollow profile having a cross-section having at least two directly neighboring planar sides, which press against the projecting edge regions of the two profile sections, the first and second hollow profiles being integrally joined to one another between the projecting edge regions of the two profile sections of the first elongated hollow profile and the two neighboring planar sides of the second hollow profile, wherein the projecting edge regions of the first hollow profile are formed by quadrilateral cutouts cut along the separating cut and disposed symmetrically to the one single cross-sectional plane, and wherein each cutout is located and shaped to correspond to a location and radius of a longitudinal edge of the first hollow profile and to extend over the entire edge.--.

Inserted new claim 13 as follows:

--13. (New) A method for manufacturing a joint structure according to claim 12, comprising the following method steps:

a) cutting through a first elongated hollow profile having a cross-section having at least one planar side around a portion of the

Art Unit: 3679

circumference of the first hollow profile in one single cross-sectional plane to define a web lying on the planar side,

b) bending the first, partially cut-through hollow profile around the web lying on the planar side to define two angled profile sections connected by the web, the profile sections having ends formed by the separating cut and each end comprising projecting edge regions,

c) placing two directly neighboring planar sides of a second elongated hollow profile on the projecting edge regions of the two profile sections, and

d) integrally joining the second hollow profile to the first hollow profile between the projecting edge regions and the neighboring planar sides of the second hollow profile, wherein the projecting edge regions of the first hollow profile are formed by quadrilateral cutouts cut along the separating cut and disposed symmetrically to the one single cross-sectional plane, and wherein each cutout is located and shaped to correspond to a location and radius of a longitudinal edge of the first hollow profile and to extend over the entire edge.--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 12, Showa Aluminum (JP 8061329) in view of Hoover (US 809,061) discloses the claimed three-dimension joint structure with the exception of the first hollow profile being bent around the web to define two profile sections at an angle

Art Unit: 3679

relative to one another and connected by the web, the two profile sections having ends formed by the separating cut and each end comprising projecting edge regions, the first and second hollow profiles being integrally joined to one another between the projecting edge regions of the two profile sections of the first elongated hollow profile and the two neighboring planar sides of the second hollow profile wherein the projecting edge regions of the first hollow profile are formed by quadrilateral cutouts cut along the separating cut and disposed symmetrically to the one single cross-sectional plane, and wherein each cutout is located and shaped to correspond to a location and radius of a longitudinal edge of the first hollow profile and to extend over the entire edge.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicant's own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the joint structure disclosed by Showa Aluminum in view of Hoover to have the above mentioned elemental features. Furthermore, such modifications would yield unexpected and unpredictable results.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL P. FERGUSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30am-3:00pm).

Art Unit: 3679

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MPF
10/30/08

/Michael P. Ferguson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679